

2017 Agri-Food Exports

Alberta Highlights

Agri-Food Statistics Update: Issue EXP 18-1

What are Agri-Food Exports?

Agri-food exports refers to exports of primary agricultural commodities (animals and crops) and processed agricultural and food products (value added exports). The latter includes: food, beverages, animal feed, as well as inedible crude animal and plant products.



Key Messages

- In 2017, Alberta agri-food exports rose 12.3 per cent to a record \$11.2 billion. Gains were reported for both primary commodities and value added products.
 - Alberta continues to be the third largest exporter of agri-food products in Canada, after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
 - Value added exports continues to grow, up 10.6 per cent to \$5.6 billion, and represented almost one-half of Alberta's total agri-food exports. Higher exports of crude canola oil, canola cake and meal, beef, pork and other products contributed to the increase.
 - Exports of primary commodities, at \$5.7 billion, increased 14 per cent over 2016, and accounted for just over one-half of the Alberta total. The growth was a result of larger exports of wheat, barley, pulses and canola seed.
 - Wheat returned as the number one export product, after ranking second in 2016. Canola seed was the second largest export, followed by beef, crude canola oil and live cattle.
- The United States remained Alberta's largest export market, followed by China, Japan, Mexico and South Korea.

Definitions:

These highlights present the latest annual international trade statistics released by Statistics Canada. The information is preliminary and subject to revision.

International trade statistics are compiled by Statistics Canada according to the "General" system of trade defined by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Under this system, domestic exports include all goods grown, extracted or manufactured in Canada, including goods of foreign origin, which have been materially transformed in Canada.

Trade statistics are classified and published according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System or HS). The HS is a product classification system used by almost all countries in reporting export and import statistics.

Export statistics used in this document are Customs based statistics and refer to domestic exports.

Alberta Agri-Food Exports, 2015 to 2017

		2015r	2016r	2017p	2017/16
		- \$ Millions -			% Change
Total Agri-Food Exports		10,181	10,006	11,238	12.3
Top Five Products in 2017		6,625	6,491	7,358	13.4
1	Wheat	2,423	1,820	2,135	17.3
2	Canola Seed	1,677	1,841	2,022	9.8
3	Beef (Fresh, Chilled, Frozen, Incl. offal)	1,696	1,670	1,735	3.9
4	Crude Canola oil	243	537	854	59.1
5	Live Cattle (Excl. Purebred)	585	623	612	-1.7
Top Five Markets in 2017		7,491	7,439	8,325	11.9
1	United States	3,998	4,061	4,269	5.1
2	China	1,588	1,375	1,980	44.0
3	Japan	1,101	1,226	1,260	2.8
4	Mexico	572	540	602	11.7
5	South Korea	233	237	214	-9.7
- Primary Commodities		5,379	4,957	5,653	14.0
- Value Added Products		4,802	5,049	5,585	10.6

r - revised p - preliminary

Highlights on Alberta Agri-Food Exports in 2017

- In 2017, Alberta agri-food exports were a record \$11.2 billion, up 12.3 per cent over 2016. Larger exports of primary commodities and value added products contributed to the increase.
- Nationally, Alberta accounted for 19.3 per cent of the Canadian total and remained the third largest exporter of agri-food products after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- **In the crop sector**, exports of wheat, barley, dry peas, lentils and canola seed increased in both value and quantity in 2017. However, export values increased at a faster rate than quantities, due to stronger prices. Wheat exports grew 17.3 per cent in value, while quantity rose 8.5 per cent. Larger exports of wheat to the United States, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Peru contributed to the growth. Exports of canola seed rose 9.8 per cent in value and 4.2 per cent in quantity. China remained the largest market for canola seed, followed by Japan and Mexico.
- **In the livestock sector**, exports of live animals were lower than in 2016. Exports of live cattle declined 1.7 per cent in value, while the number of cattle rose 10.9 per cent. In contrast, live hog exports increased 7.9 per cent in value, while quantity was down about one per cent.

Exports of beef increased in 2017, with value up 3.9 per cent to \$1.7 billion and quantity up 3.1 per cent to 272,000 tonnes. Also, pork exports grew in both, value and quantity. As in previous years, the United States was Alberta's largest export market for livestock.

Top Export Markets in 2017

- **The United States (US)** continues to be Alberta's largest trading partner, accounting for 38 per cent of total agri-food exports. In 2017, exports to this market rose 5.1 per cent to \$4.3 billion. Contrary to the previous year, commodity exports rose 6.9 per cent, mainly due to much higher exports of wheat, dry peas, lentils, vegetables and fruits. Also, significant increases were reported in exports of value added products such as crude canola oil, dairy products, processed meat, beef and pork. The US remains Alberta's sole export market for non-purebred live cattle and hogs, and accounted for over 70 per cent of the province's total beef exports.
- **Exports to China**, Alberta's second largest market in 2017, posted the largest increase among the top five countries. Exports to this market rose sharply by 44 per cent to almost \$2 billion. The increase was a result of

substantially higher exports of barley, dry peas, canola seed, crude canola oil, pork and beef. As in previous years, crude canola oil was the second largest export to China, after canola seed. In 2017, exports of canola seed was up 29.4 per cent, while crude canola oil almost doubled (up 93 per cent). Canola seed and oil combined, made up over 60 per cent of Alberta's total exports to this market.

- **Exports to Japan**, Alberta's third largest market, grew moderately by 2.8 per cent to \$1.3 billion in 2017. Higher exports of canola seed, wheat, pork and beef, contributed to the growth. Canola seed (\$422 million), continued to be the largest export to Japan. Exports of beef rose 3.8 per cent to \$123 million. Pork, traditionally the second largest export, grew less than one per cent to \$214 million. Other increases were reported for barley, hay and fodder, dry peas and milled cereals.
- **Exports to Mexico**, Alberta's fourth largest market, rose 11.7 per cent to \$602 million. The increase was a result of larger exports of canola seed, wheat, malt, pork and beef. Beef exports grew 3.8 per cent to \$102 million, and canola was up 17.6 per cent to \$292 million. Canola seed, beef and wheat combined, made up over 80 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to Mexico.
- **Exports to South Korea**, Alberta's fifth largest market, declined 9.7 per cent to \$214 million. Declines were reported in exports of wheat, crude canola oil, hides and skins, and beef. Moderating these declines were higher exports of hay and fodder, french fries, animal feeds, refined canola oil and pork.

For more information:

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The source of data is **Statistics Canada, International Trade Division**

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